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HOWARD LIPIN U-T PHOTOS

**Seven-year-old Miranda Gomez makes her way through the Thanksgiving dinner serving line at the Alpha Project homeless camp on Thursday. The charity Just Call Us Volunteers served roasted turkey, ham, potatoes, green beans and more.**

# GOOD WILL, WITH EXTRA GRAVY

## Volunteers serve Thanksgiving meals to hundreds of adults and children at homeless camp in Balboa Park

**BY JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH**

Children painted and played games under shade structures at the homeless camp in Balboa Park on Thursday as their parents and other adults lined up for a Thanksgiving feast.

Volunteers doled out huge helpings of stuffing, ham, turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy to a line of people of all ages and ethnicities.

"Look at the smiles on the kids' faces," said Abbra Dugan, 36, who has been living with her husband and two daughters at the camp, located at the city public works yard on the south end the park. "That is the most amazing thing to be thankful for. They are happy and having fun."

Charity groups have been giving out food to homeless folks all week, from the San Diego Rescue Mission to organizations such as Streets of Hope to individual church groups.

The charity nonprofit at the homeless camp on Thursday, Just Call Us Volunteers, prepared about 600 Thanksgiving meals, some of which were also distributed at Veterans Village of San Diego and the San Diego Center for Children. As part of that effort, in addition to roasted turkeys, the company prepared 300 pounds of ham, 100 pounds of potatoes, 75 pounds of green beans, 80

SEE **HOMELESS • A12**

**A12** • San Diego ties record for hottest Thanksgiving.

**David Myers (left) and his son David Myers II enjoy their Thanksgiving meal while sitting in front of their tent.**

# FLYNN SIGNALS HE MIGHT ASSIST MUELLER PROBE

## Split from Trump's team indicates cooperation with special counsel

**BY MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT, MATT APUZZO & MAGGIE HABERMAN**

**WASHINGTON**

Lawyers for Michael Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, notified the president's legal team in recent days that they could no longer discuss the special counsel's investigation, according to four people involved in the case, an indication that Flynn is cooperating with prosecutors or negotiating a deal.

Flynn's lawyers had been sharing information with Trump's lawyers about the investigation by the special counsel, Robert Mueller, who is examining whether anyone around Trump was involved in Russian efforts to undermine Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

That agreement has been terminated, the four people said. Defense lawyers frequently share information during investigations, but they must stop when doing so would pose a conflict of interest. It is unethical for lawyers to work together when one client is cooperating with prosecutors and another is still under investigation.

SEE **FLYNN • A13**

**A13** • Donald Trump Jr. meets scrutiny of contacts with defiance.

**A13** • Congressional probes on Russia likely to head into next year.

# SHOPPERS MAY SPEND LESS THIS BLACK FRIDAY

**BY BEN CASSELMAN**

The millions of deal-seeking shoppers who jam malls and store aisles over the next few days will be doing so in what is by most measures the best economy in a decade. But two questions loom over the holiday shopping season: How free will Americans be with their spending when wage growth remains anemic? And how much of that money will they spend in stores, given the continuing shift toward online shopping?

Overall, Americans appear confident in their economic prospects. The unemployment rate, at 4.1 percent, is at its lowest level since the Clinton administration. The stock market is soaring. Even this fall's hurricanes could not upend a second-consecutive quarter of solid economic growth.

The University of Michigan on Wednesday said consumer sentiment ticked down in November but remained close to its highest level

SEE **FRIDAY • A6**

**A6** • Store and mall hours for Black Friday in San Diego County.

# CASE HAS SIMILARITIES TO 'FAT LEONARD' SCHEME

## Civil lawsuit alleging defrauding of Navy has stayed under the radar

**BY GREG MORAN**

More than four years ago in a San Diego hotel, federal investigators arrested Leonard Glenn "Fat Leonard" Francis in what was the opening step of a massive fraud and bribery scandal that continues to resonate through the Navy.

The gregarious Francis soon pleaded guilty to a decadelong scheme in which he bribed Navy officers and officials and enlisted their help in defrauding the government out of at least $35 million for his ship servicing company, Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA).

While the Fat Leonard scandal has torn through the Navy, upending the careers of nearly two dozen current and former Navy officers and officials who have pleaded guilty and hundreds more who are under scrutiny, a second case alleging extensive fraud in ship servicing by a different company has cut a far narrower profile.

The case, a whistleblower lawsuit brought by three former employees of Inchcape Shipping Services, alleges that the company defrauded the government of tens of millions of dollars between 2005 and 2014.

The former employees said they discovered a wide-ranging fraud scheme and brought it to the attention of senior executives, but nothing was done. They ended up leaving the company and began providing information to the government in 2009, the lawsuit says.

The fraud allegedly involved submitting invoices to the Navy for services that either were bogus or inflated the cost of the work, and double-billed for other services. The suit also said the company kept two sets of books to conceal the fraud, and pocketed savings — such as rebates, discounts and credits — from subcontractors.

The suit was filed under seal in 2010 and remained secret for nearly five years, until November 2015. That's when the Department of Justice publicly announced it would join the suit — a key step in whistleblower suits because it indicates the government believes there is merit to the claims and will work to recoup money.

The company has denied wrongdoing and is contesting the case in court. In a statement, the company said the lawsuit had nothing in common with the notorious Fat Leonard case — other than both companies are involved in ship servicing work.

But for government watchdogs, the similarities between the two are troubling and illuminate a long-standing problem of oversee-

SEE **NAVY • A8**

**INSIDE** Disney-Pixar's 'Coco' is joyous celebration of Day of the Dead tradition. **Weekend**

**TODAY'S DEAL**

Tune-up your garage door just in time for the Holidays with a service and safety inspection for $29.99 from Sears Garage Door Repair! Buy now at **deals.sandiegouniontribune.com.**

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